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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/780,597

02/19/2004

Yoshinori Katayama

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EXAMINER

LEWIS, CHERYL RENE A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2167

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

05/05/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/780,597	Applicant(s) KATAYAMA ET AL.	
	Examiner CHERYL LEWIS	Art Unit 2167	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 January 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 20-37 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 20-37 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This office action is in response to the applicants' communication received on January 16, 2008.
2. Claims 20-37 are presented for examination. Applicants have amended claims 20, 26, and 32 in the amendment received on January 16, 2008. The applicants have not cancelled or added any new claims.
3. Applicants' arguments with respect to claim 20-37 have been considered but they are deemed to be moot in view of the new grounds of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 20-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Senay (Publication No.: US 20020038218 filed May 9, 2001).
6. Regarding Claims 20, 26, and 32, Senay teaches methods for graphically representing interactions among entities.

The method and associated system for Methods for graphically representing interactions among entities as taught or suggested by Senay includes:

extracting metadata of the persons from among electronic data that include information about the persons (§ 0017, 0018, and 0031); linking the metadata extracted based on a co-occurring relationship (§ 0015 and 0031) of the information about the persons in the electronic documents (§ 0015 and 0031); storing the metadata linked as secondary metadata into a database (§ 0015 and 0031); retrieving from the database, secondary metadata that satisfy a filter condition (§ 0015 and 0031); and displaying the personal connection map (0031) based on the secondary metadata retrieved (§ 0017, 0018, and 0031).

7. Regarding Claims 21, 27, and 32, Senay teaches displaying includes a closed loop is formed by N nodes and N links in the personal connection map (§ 0031), the personal connection map from which a first link representing a weakest personal connection among (§ 0031) the N links is eliminated so that the personal connection map has a tree structure and included the Nnodes and N-1 links other than the first link (§ 0031), where N is an integer greater than one (§ 0031).

8. Regarding Claims 22, 28, and 33, Senay teaches the means which essentially comprises the same means as a time-line in the personal connection map (§ 0031).

9. Regarding Claims 23, 29, and 34, Senay teaches a suitable venue for assembly of persons represented by the nodes selected (§ 0031).

10. Regarding Claims 24, 30, and 35, Senay teaches displaying an effect on an environment caused by the persons assembling to the venue (§ 0031).

11. Regarding Claims 25, 31, and 36, Senay teaches the environment (§ 0031) is CO₂ emission.

NAME OF CONTACT

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cheryl Lewis whose telephone number is (571) 272-4113. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:30-3:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Cottingham can be reached on (571) 272-7079. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

(571) 273-4113 (Use this FAX #, only after approval by Examiner, for "INFORMAL" or "DRAFT" communication. Examiners may request that a formal paper/amendment be faxed directly to them on occasions.).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist/ Technology Center (571) 272-2100.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

Art Unit: 2167

For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>.

Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Cheryl Lewis/

Patent Examiner, A.U. 2167

April 14, 2008